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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Commerce
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE TOM BILEY
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER
MARKUP OF H.R. 629 -- TEXAS COMPACT
May 13, 1997

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for holding this markup of H.R. 629, the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Consent Act.

When Congress passed the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act in 1980, it was part of a broader policy decision that the states would be responsible for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste while the Federal government would accept the responsibility for disposing of high-level wastes. Since the 1980 Act was passed, 41 states have entered into regional compacts for the disposal of low-level wastes.

H.R. 629 would grant Congressional consent to the Texas-Maine-Vermont Compact, and would allow these States to begin responsibly dealing with their low-level waste disposal needs.

I want to thank Representatives Joe Barton and Ralph Hall for their sponsorship of this bill, and Chairman Schaefer for moving ahead on this issue of great importance to these three States.